

What is Claimed is:

1. A pallet rack comprising

a lower pallet unit including a lower pallet having a horizontal upper surface and a plurality of vertical posts extending longitudinally upwardly from said upper surface, each of said posts having a lower portion secured to said lower pallet and having an upper portion, each of said posts having a longitudinal passage at said upper portion terminating at an upper end circumscribing an entry opening to said passage;

a plurality of connectors respectively associated with said passages, each of said connectors including a support flange having a lower face and an upper face, a lower extension extending longitudinally from said lower face and an upper extension extending longitudinally from said upper face coaxial with said lower extension, said flanges having an external size to prevent passage of said flanges through said entry openings, said lower extensions being respectively disposed with a close fit in said passages via said entry openings with said lower faces of said flanges in respective abutment with said upper ends of said passages; and

an upper pallet unit including an upper pallet having a lower surface and a horizontal upper surface, and a plurality of bores in said upper pallet respectively corresponding to said upper extensions, each of said bores having an entry aperture along said lower surface of a size to prevent passage of said flanges therethrough, said upper extensions being respectively disposed with a close fit in said bores via said entry apertures with said lower surface of said upper pallet in abutment with said upper faces of said flanges whereby said upper pallet is supported in parallel spaced relation over said lower pallet.

1 2. The pallet rack recited in claim 1 and further including a plurality of
2 securing devices respectively securing said lower portions to said lower pallet, said
3 securing devices comprising a plurality of base plates respectively secured to said lower
4 portions of said posts at a perpendicular angle and attached to said upper surface of
5 said lower pallet.

1 3. The pallet rack recited in claim 1 wherein each of said lower portions of
2 said posts has a longitudinal passage terminating at a lower end circumscribing an
3 entry opening to said passage of said lower portion, and further including a plurality of
4 securing devices respectively securing said lower portions to said lower pallet, said
5 securing devices comprising an additional plurality of said connectors respectively
6 associated with said passages of said lower portions, said flanges of said additional
7 plurality of said connectors having an external size to prevent passage of said flanges
8 of said additional plurality of said connectors through said entry openings at said lower
9 ends, said upper extensions of said additional plurality of said connectors being
10 respectively disposed with a close fit in said passages of said lower portions via said
11 entry openings at said lower ends with said upper faces of said flanges of said
12 additional plurality of said connectors in respective abutment with said lower ends, and
13 a plurality of bores in said lower pallet respectively corresponding to said lower
14 extensions of said additional plurality of said connectors, each of said bores in said
15 lower pallet having an entry aperture along said upper surface of said lower pallet of a
16 size to prevent passage of said flanges of said additional plurality of said connectors
17 therethrough, said lower extensions of said additional plurality of said connectors being

18 respectively disposed with a close fit in said bores of said lower pallet via said entry
19 apertures along said upper surface of said lower pallet, with said upper surface of said
20 lower pallet in abutment with said lower faces of said flanges of said additional plurality
21 of said connectors.

1 4. The pallet rack recited in claim 3 wherein said longitudinal passages of
2 said upper and lower portions are formed coaxially in each of said posts.

1 5. The pallet rack recited in claim 1 wherein said upper pallet unit further
2 comprises an additional plurality of said vertical posts extending longitudinally upwardly
3 from said upper surface of said upper pallet, each of said posts of said upper pallet unit
4 having a lower portion secured to said upper pallet and an upper portion terminating at
5 an upper end.

1 6. The pallet rack recited in claim 5 wherein said posts of said upper pallet
2 unit are respectively longitudinally aligned with said posts of said lower pallet unit.

1 7. The pallet rack recited in claim 5 wherein said lower pallet unit further
2 comprises at least one shelf secured to said posts of said lower pallet unit in spaced
3 parallel relation above said upper surface of said lower pallet, and said upper pallet unit
4 further comprises at least one shelf secured to said posts of said upper pallet unit in
5 spaced parallel relation above said upper surface of said upper pallet.

1 8. The pallet rack recited in claim 5 wherein said posts of said lower pallet
2 unit comprise two front posts and two rear posts, said lower pallet unit further comprises
3 a front stabilizing bar extending diagonally between said front posts, a rear stabilizing
4 bar extending diagonally between said rear posts, and a pair of side stabilizing bars
5 respectively extending diagonally between said front posts and said rear posts, said
6 posts of said upper pallet unit comprise two front posts and two rear posts, said upper
7 pallet unit further comprises a front stabilizing bar extending diagonally between said
8 front posts of said upper pallet unit, a rear stabilizing bar extending diagonally between
9 said rear posts of said upper pallet unit and a pair of side stabilizing bars respectively
10 extending diagonally between said front posts of said upper pallet unit and said rear
11 posts of said upper pallet unit.

1 9. The pallet rack recited in claim 8 wherein at least one of said stabilizing
2 bars of each of said pallet units is removable and some of said stabilizing bars of each
3 of said pallet units are not removable.

1 10. A pallet rack comprising
2 a lower pallet unit including a lower pallet having four corners and a horizontal
3 upper surface, and four vertical posts respectively adjacent said corners extending
4 longitudinally upwardly from said upper surface in a direction perpendicular to said
5 upper surface, each of said posts having a lower portion secured to said lower pallet
6 and an upper portion terminating at an upper end, each of said posts having a
7 longitudinal passage in said upper portion with an entry opening at said upper end;

8 four connectors respectively associated with said posts, each of said connectors
9 including a lower extension and an upper extension having a common central
10 longitudinal axis, and a support flange between said lower and upper extensions
11 perpendicular to said central longitudinal axis, each of said flanges having a lower face,
12 an upper face and an external size to prevent passage of said flanges through said
13 entry openings, said lower extensions being respectively disposed coaxially with a close
14 fit in said passages via said entry openings with said lower faces of said flanges
15 respectively supported on said upper ends of said posts; and

16 an upper pallet unit including an upper pallet having four corners, a horizontal
17 upper surface and a lower surface beneath said upper surface of said lower pallet, and
18 four longitudinal bores in said upper pallet respectively adjacent said corners of said
19 upper pallet in respective correspondence with said posts, each of said bores having an
20 entry aperture along said lower surface of a size to prevent passage of said flanges
21 therethrough, said upper extensions being respectively disposed coaxially with a close
22 fit in said bores via said entry apertures, said lower surface of said upper pallet being
23 supported on said upper faces of said flanges with said upper surfaces of said pallets in
24 parallel spaced relation.

1 11. The pallet rack recited in claim 10 and further including a base plate
2 extending perpendicularly from each of said lower portions of said posts and attached
3 in supporting relation on said upper surface of said lower pallet.

12. The pallet rack recited in claim 10 wherein each of said lower portions of said posts terminates at a lower end, each of said posts has a longitudinal passage in said lower portion with an entry opening at said lower end, and further including an additional four of said connectors respectively associated with said posts, said external size of said flanges of said additional connectors preventing passage of said flanges of said additional connectors through said entry openings at said lower ends, said upper extensions of said additional connectors being respectively disposed coaxially with a close fit in said passages in said lower portions via said entry openings at said lower ends with said lower ends respectively supported on said upper faces of said flanges of said additional connectors, and further comprising four longitudinal bores in said lower pallet respectively adjacent said corners of said lower pallet, said bores in said lower pallet being respectively coaxial with said bores in said upper pallet and having entry apertures along said upper surface of said lower pallet of a size to prevent passage of said flanges of said additional connectors therethrough, said lower extensions of said additional connectors being respectively disposed coaxially with a close fit in said bores in said lower pallet via said entry apertures along said upper surface of said lower pallet, with said lower faces of said flanges of said additional connectors supported on said upper surface of said lower pallet.

13. The pallet rack recited in claim 10 wherein said upper pallet unit further includes four vertical posts respectively adjacent said corners of said upper pallet, said posts of said upper pallet unit extending longitudinally upwardly from said upper surface of said upper pallet in a direction perpendicular to said upper surface of said upper

5 pallet and in longitudinal alignment with said posts of said lower pallet unit, each of said
6 posts of said upper pallet unit having a lower portion secured to said upper pallet and
7 having an upper portion terminating at an upper end.

1 14. The pallet rack recited in claim 13 and further including a plurality of
2 securing devices respectively securing said lower portions of said posts of said lower
3 pallet unit to said lower pallet.

1 15. The pallet rack recited in claim 14 and further including a plurality of
2 securing devices respectively securing said lower portions of said posts of said upper
3 pallet unit to said upper pallet.

1 16. The pallet rack recited in claim 12 wherein each of said posts is tubular
2 with a lumen extending longitudinally entirely therethrough defining said longitudinal
3 passages in said upper and lower portions.

1 17. The pallet rack recited in claim 13 wherein said posts of said lower pallet
2 unit comprise two front posts and two rear posts, said lower pallet unit further comprises
3 a first attachment device attached to said lower portion of one of said front posts, a
4 second attachment device attached to said upper portion of the other one of said front
5 posts, a third attachment device attached to said upper portion of one of said rear posts
6 and a fourth attachment device attached to said lower portion of the other of said rear
7 posts, said first attachment device includes a first plate extending perpendicularly from

8 said one of said front posts in the direction of said other of said front posts and a
9 second plate extending perpendicularly from said one of said front posts perpendicular
10 to said first plate and in the direction of said one of said rear posts, said second
11 attachment device includes a first plate extending perpendicularly from said other of
12 said front posts in the direction of said one of said front posts and a second plate
13 extending perpendicularly from said other of said front posts perpendicular to said first
14 plate of said second attachment device and in the direction of said other of said rear
15 posts, said third attachment device includes a first plate extending perpendicularly from
16 said one of said rear posts in the direction of said other of said rear posts and a second
17 plate extending perpendicularly from said one of said rear posts perpendicular to said
18 first plate of said third attachment device and in the direction of said one of said front
19 posts, said fourth attachment includes a first plate extending perpendicularly from said
20 other of said rear posts in the direction of said one of said rear posts and a second
21 plate extending perpendicularly from said other of said rear posts perpendicular to said
22 first plate of said fourth attachment device and in the direction of said other of said front
23 posts, a front stabilizing bar having opposing ends removably attached to said first plate
24 of said first attachment device and to said first plate of said second attachment device,
25 a rear stabilizing bar having opposing ends removably attached to said first plate of said
26 third attachment device and to said first plate of said fourth attachment device, a first
27 side stabilizing bar having opposing ends non-removably attached to said second plate
28 of said first attachment device and to said second plate of said third attachment device,
29 and a second side stabilizing bar having opposing ends non-removably attached to said

30 second plate of said second attachment device and to said second plate of said fourth
31 attachment device.

1 18. The pallet rack recited in claim 17 and further including abutment plates
2 respectively secured to said opposing ends of said front stabilizing bar and securing
3 elements removably securing said abutment plates respectively to said first plate of said
4 first attachment device and to said first plate of said second attachment device, and
5 further comprising abutment plates respectively secured to said opposing ends of said
6 rear stabilizing bar and securing elements removably securing said abutment plates of
7 said rear stabilizing bar respectively to said first plate of said third attachment device
8 and to said first plate of said fourth attachment device.

1 19. A pallet rack comprising
2 upper and lower pallets each having first and second parallel stringers
3 respectively disposed on opposite sides of said pallet, a horizontal upper surface on top
4 of said stringers, and a lower surface beneath said upper surface;
5 four vertical posts each having a central longitudinal axis, an upper portion
6 terminating at an upper end, a lower portion, and an axial passage in said upper portion
7 with an entry opening at said upper end, said lower portions being secured to said lower
8 pallet with said posts extending longitudinally upwardly from and perpendicular to said
9 upper surface of said lower pallet, a first pair of said posts being in alignment with said
10 first stringer of said lower pallet and a second pair of said posts being in alignment with
11 said second stringer of said lower pallet;

12 four longitudinal bores in said upper pallet with respective entry apertures along
13 said lower surface of said upper pallet, a first pair of said bores extending within said
14 first stringer of said upper pallet in respective axial alignment with said first pair of said
15 posts and a second pair of said bores extending within said second stringer of said
16 upper pallet in respective axial alignment with said second pair of said of posts; and
17 four connectors respectively coupling said posts to said upper pallet, each of
18 said connectors including an upper extension and a lower extension having a common
19 central longitudinal axis, and a flange between said upper and lower extensions
20 extending perpendicular to said common central longitudinal axis, said flanges being
21 incapable of passing through said entry openings and said entry apertures, said upper
22 extensions being respectively received in said bores through said entry apertures and
23 said lower extensions being respectively received in said passages through said entry
24 openings, said lower surface of said upper pallet being supported on said flanges and
25 said flanges being respectively supported on said upper ends of said posts to support
26 said upper surface of said upper pallet in spaced parallel relation over said lower pallet.

1 20. The pallet rack recited in claim 19 wherein each of said stringers has a
2 length and a width, said width of said first and second stringers of said lower pallet is
3 perpendicular to said upper surface of said lower pallet, said width of said first and
4 second stringers of said upper pallet is perpendicular to said upper surface of said
5 upper pallet, each of said upper surfaces comprising a plurality of deck boards having a
6 length perpendicular to said length of said stringers.